

REMARKS

Claims 19-37 are pending in this application. Claims 28-36 stand withdrawn. By this Amendment, claim 19 is amended. Support for amended claim 19 can be found, at least, in Figs. 5a and 5b of the specification. No new matter is added.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner has not yet acknowledged that copies of the certified priority documents have been received in this National Stage application, on the front face of any Office Action in this application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner make this acknowledgement in the next Office Action.

Also, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on June 7, 2005 in this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review and initial the accompanying PTO-1449 form.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Baldwin in the July 24, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 19, 20, 22, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 04-301115 to Yu. The Office Action also rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yu. The Office Action rejects claims 19, 20, 22-26 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 00/48807 to Cutler in view of Yu. Finally, the Office Action rejects claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Cutler in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,411,856 to Montierth. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 19, as amended, now recites that "the corners of the protruding portion directly connected to the tip are chamfered." As discussed during the July 24 interview, Yu does not disclose this feature.

Furthermore, such a feature would not be an obvious improvement to make to Yu. Yu discloses that the purpose of its protruding portions is to provide heat dissipation effects, while

in use in an exhaust system. As such, Yu only needs protruding plugs on its forward end. By contrast, the instant specification, on pages 19 and 20 discloses that, among its other purposes, the protruding plugs help prevent chipping and cracking of the casing, by preventing the case from contacting any surface it is placed on. Thus, chamfered tips aid in the purpose of the instant application. However, there is no disclosure that a chamfered surface would improve the heat dissipation effects of the tips disclosed in Yu. Also such a chamfered surface would likely increase cost of manufacture. As such, Yu does not disclose or suggest that "the corners of the protruding portion directly connected to the tip are chamfered" as recited in claim 19.

Additionally, Cutler and Montierth fail to supply the subject matter missing in Yu. Accordingly, claims 20-27 and 37 are allowable based on their dependence on allowable claim 19, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 19-27 under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 19-27 and 37 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MKW/aps

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 18, 2008

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